

## REMARKS

Reconsideration of this application is requested in view of the amendments to the claims and the remarks presented herein.

The claims in the application are claims 1 to 15 and 20, claims 16 to 19 have been cancelled but Applicants reserve the right to file a divisional application directed thereto.

Claims 1 to 15 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. The Examiner objected to the expression “and especially mites” as being indefinite and also objected to the use of the characterized clause and objected to the expression “free from human or animal elements” as being unclear. The Examiner also objected to the expression “such as” and noted that claims 14 and 15 did not end in a period.

Applicants respectfully traverse these grounds of rejection since the amended claims are believed to properly define the invention so as to comply with 35 USC 112. The expression “and especially mites” has been deleted from the claims and the characterizing clause has been deleted as well. Periods have now been supplied for claims 14 and 15 and expression “such as” has been deleted from the claims. Therefore, the amended claims are believed to comply with 35 USC 112 and withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

With respect to the expression “free from human or animal elements” as set forth in claim 1, it is deemed that one skilled in the art would know what is meant by this terminology. The prior art media contains human scales as noted in lines 19 to 22 of page 1 or proteins from animal origin as noted in lines 28 to 30 of page 1 and these non-mite substances of human or animal origin may cause allergies and/or have an infectious potential as noted in lines 30 to 33 of page 1.

To circumvent the risks of contamination, human skin scales intended to be used for the cultivation of mites were treated to inactivate conventional viruses and bacteria or unconventional infectious agents such as prions as indicated in lines 19 to 22 of page 1 and line 34 of page 1 through line 3 of page 2. The claimed medium for cultivating mites has been developed to meet the need for a nutrient medium which minimizes the risk of the presence of infectious agents which may be found in animals or humans as indicated in lines 8 to 12 of page 2 and which is free from allergens of human or animal origin as indicated in lines 4 to 7 of page 2. The goal of Applicants’ invention is achieved by providing a medium which is free from any element or human or animal origin.

Applicants believe that one skilled in the art would readily understand that the term “human or animal elements” includes, for instance, proteins derived from an animal or a human, infectious agents such as viruses or bacteria or unconventional infectious agents such as prions that may be found in human or animals or any other elements such

as human skin scales, shrimp eggs, powdered pig's liver or carbohydrates, lipids, etc. that originate from humans or animals. Therefore, it is believed that claim 1 is clear and withdrawal of these grounds of rejection is requested.

Applicants have noted that the claims were free of the prior art and it is believed that the amendments comply with 35 USC 112. Therefore, favorable reconsideration of the application is requested.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosure